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TO IMMEDIATE FCO

TELEGRAM NUMBER 430 OF 06 MAY 1982

INFO ROUTINE WASHINGTON, UKDEL NATO, UKMIS NEW YORK, ATJENS, BRUSSELS
UKREP BRUSSELS COPENHAGEN THE HAGUE LUXEMBOURG ROME DUBLIN BONN

MY TELNO 427: FRENCH POLICY ON FALKLANDS

1. WHEN I CALLED ON MAUROY THIS MORNING MUCH OF THE CONVERSATION WAS ON THE SUBJECT OF THE FALKLANDS. MAUROY TOOK THE SAME LINE AS GUTMANN YESTERDAY (MY TUR) ALTHOUGH IN MORE GENERAL TERMS. HE EMPHASISED THE DESIRABILITY OF A UK INITIATIVE TO HELP BRING ABOUT NEGOTIATIONS AND THE POSSIBLE ROLE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL OF THE UN. I POINTED OUT THE NEED NOT TO CONDONE OR REWARD THE ARGENTINE AGRESSION. MAUROY SAID HE FULLY ACCEPTED THIS AND REITERATED THAT THE FRENCH POSITION, AS LAID DOWN BY THE PRESIDENT, WAS ONE OF SOLIDARITY WITH THE UK. FRANCE HAD TO TAKE ACCOUNT OF PUBLIC OPINION WHICH HAD REACTED STRONGLY TO THE ESCALATION OF FIGHTING BUT THIS DID NOT AFFECT BASIC FRENCH POLICY. FRETWELL.

FCO

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